AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 – 60. (Cancelled)

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein the upright column further includes first and second inner side members; and

the outer shell partially surrounds the first and second inner side members so that exposed upright edges of the outer shell lay adjacent to the sides of the column at a position where the column is relatively narrower.

63. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein in use, the column resides partially within a channel formed by the outer shell.

64. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said outer shell comprises an elongate member having a substantially "C" shaped cross section.

65. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said outer shell comprises a tubular substantially cylindrical member having a pair of substantially parallel opposing edges forming either side of a gap in said part cylindrical member; and

said substantially cylindrical member extends over an angle in the range 260° to 280°, about a longitudinal center line of said outer shell.

66. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said outer shell has a height in the range 30cm to 120cm.

67. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said outer shell has an external diameter in the range 10cm to 14 cm.

68. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said outer shell has a wall thickness in the range 7mm to 9mm.

69. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said outer shell comprises a pair of opposing longitudinal edges, and has a distance between said opposing longitudinal edges in the range 5cm to 11cm.

70. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said outer shell comprises a chamfered edge positioned at an end of

said shell, between an upper face of said outer shell and an inner surface of said shell, to facilitate sliding of the inner liner with respect to the outer shell.

71. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said outer shell comprises at least one material selected from the set: a resilient elastomeric polymer based material; Polyethylene; high density Polyethylene; Polypropylene; Polycarbonate; Polyvinylchloride; Polystyrene; Plastic; or a mixture of plastics.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein a maximum distance of an outer surface of the substantially "U" shaped channel to the outer part cylindrical surface is in the range 2cm to 5cm.

75. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said inner liner comprises a material selected from the set: an elastomeric material which is relatively less dense than a material of said outer shell: Polyethylene; Polypropylene; Polycarbonate; Polyvinylchloride; Polystyrene; natural rubber foam; synthetic rubber foam; a compressive composite material; a closed cell SBR foam material.

76. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said inner liner has a height in the range 30cm to 120cm.

77. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said inner liner has an external diameter in the range 10cm to 14 cm.

78. (Currently Amended) The column protector as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein the substantially "U" shaped channel of said inner liner has a width in the range 7cm to 12cm.

79. (Currently Amended) The column protector as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein the substantially "U" shaped channel of said inner liner has a depth in the range 2cm to 4cm.

80. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said inner liner is configured such that, after receiving an impact, the inner liner promotes the repositioning of the whole device to a position similar to a position of the device before the impact occurred.

81. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 62, in which said outer shell, when fitted to said upright column, surrounds the front member, and partially surrounds said first and second inner side members thereby

protecting the front member and parts of the inner side members from direct impact and partially surrounds each of the first and second inner side members, said outer shell also surrounding said inner liner, which resides, in use between a substantially part cylindrical inner surface of the outer shell, and an outer face of the front member, an outer face of the first ~~outer~~ side member and an outer face of the second ~~outer~~ side member.

82. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, in which said inner liner and said outer shell are slideable with respect to each other in a direction along a main central axis of said outer shell.

83. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, in which said inner liner is bonded to an inner surface of the outer shell, such that the inner liner is fixed relative to the outer shell and cannot slide relative to the outer shell.

84. (Cancelled)

85. (Cancelled)

86. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, wherein said device has greater ductility, impact resilience and persistence of shape than that of the metal rack component it is attached to.

87. (Currently Amended) The column protector device as claimed in claim [[61]] 90, configured for attaching to said upright column, without the need for an integrated or independent fastening or securing mechanism or mechanisms, and without the need for a bonding agent.

88. (Cancelled)

89. (Cancelled)

90. (New) A column protector device for protection of an upright column of a racking system, said upright column of a type being channel shaped in cross section and having a substantially rectangular front portion consisting of a front member and first and second side members, said column protector device is arranged to clip onto said upright column in order to grasp said upright column;

said protector device comprising:

a substantially cylindrical outer shell of a substantially "C" shaped cross section which defines an elongated slotted opening and a pair of parallel peripheral edges at the slotted opening; and

an inner liner shaped to fit within said outer shell,

wherein said outer shell is configured to fit around said upright column such that the outer shell retains to said column in a self attaching manner without the need for any additional fixings,

wherein said outer shell is configured to fit around said upright column such that the peripheral edges are held apart by the inner liner and do not contact the upright column when retained in said self attaching manner and when the column protector is in a non-impacted state,

wherein said outer shell surrounds the front member and partially surrounds the first and second side members, thereby protecting the front member and parts of the side members,

wherein in use said inner liner is retained between said outer shell and said column and

in which the inner liner comprises a solid substantially part cylindrical member having a substantially part cylindrical outer surface, and a substantially "U" shaped channel formed on an opposite side of said liner to said substantially part cylindrical outer surface and in which, in use, said channel provides a flush interface between an inner profile of said inner liner and an external profile of said upright column in order for the liner to encapsulate the front member and portions of the first and second side members of said upright column, and

the inner liner being compressible such that during an impacted state the peripheral edges of the outer shell are positioned to engage and make contact with the upright column under a predetermined amount of compression of the inner liner, such that the inner liner provides substantially all of an initial shock absorbing resistance during the impacted state and such that the outer shell, once engaged with and contacting the upright column, augments the shock absorbing resistance provided by the inner liner.